

2. Development of Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is a discussion of the alternatives that describe different approaches to managing public land resources and uses in the New Melones Lake Area. This chapter also contains an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is composed of a complete and reasonable set of desired outcomes and a description of allowable uses and management actions to achieve these outcomes.

In the alternatives, desired outcomes are expressed as goals, which are broad statements of desired outcomes that are not quantifiable. Goals are common to all alternatives.

In the alternatives, allowable uses and management actions are expressed as actions, which identify uses or allocations that are allowable, restricted, or prohibited on public lands. Actions also identify proactive measures to achieve goals and objectives, as well as measures or criteria to guide activities on public lands. Actions may or may not vary among alternatives.

Reclamation has developed four management alternatives (the No Action Alternative and three action alternatives), which are presented in detail in this chapter. These alternatives provide a range of choices for resolving the planning issues identified during the scoping process for the RMP/EIS and listed in Chapter 1.

2.2 How to Read This Chapter

This chapter begins with introductory materials regarding the development of the alternatives for the New Melones RMP/EIS, followed by a general narrative description of the alternatives. Following the narrative sections is Table 2-2, detailing management goals and actions for each alternative. Table 2-2 is a comparison of the alternatives and shows details of the management guidance for each alternative. The table is organized into resource and use categories.

If acreages and other numbers were used in the alternatives, they are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Acreages are only estimates, based on the most current available data. Readers should not infer that acreages reflect exact measurements or precise calculations.

2.3 Formulating Alternatives

One goal in formulating alternatives for an RMP/EIS is to identify combinations of management practices to resolve planning issues. Another goal is to provide guidance where direction for a resource or use is currently lacking or is insufficient in the existing planning documents. The intent of each alternative is to represent a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary land use plan. Reclamation used a collaborative approach in developing the alternatives and relied extensively on public input to identify planning issues and develop management actions.

2.3.1 The Anatomy of an Alternative

This resource management plan contains two critical elements: goals and management actions. As discussed above, issue statements help to focus the management plan on relevant concerns. Goals provide overarching direction for Reclamation actions in meeting the agency's legal, regulatory, policy, and strategic requirements. Goals are broad statements that provide the vision for the management plan but generally are not measurable.

Desired Future Condition and Goals

Management goals were defined for each resource management category and land use program that Reclamation must address in the planning process. The goals are common to all alternatives and represent the desired outcomes for the landscape, resources, and resource uses. The management goals for each resource management category and land use program are presented below in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: RMP Management Goals

Air Quality
Comply with applicable air quality regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.
Noise
1) Comply with applicable noise regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.
2) Manage noise at levels appropriate to the use of particular areas. (Zoning lake and campground policies).
Geologic Resources (Excluding Caves)
Allow appropriate uses of geologic resources while protecting resource values (e.g., rock climbing, education, scientific research, soils, minerals, mining).
Caves
1) Comply with applicable cave management regulation, such as the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.
2) Protect cave formations and the sensitive resources within them.
Hydrology/Water Quality
1) Comply with applicable water quality regulations such as the Clean Water Act.
2) Conserve water resources and protect the water quality of those resources at New Melones Lake (management action, visitor use).
3) Maintain the ecological health of aquatic habitats on New Melones Lake lands (e.g., riparian and wetlands).
Vegetation
Maintain and enhance native and unique plant communities.
Fish and Wildlife
Manage for habitat quality to maintain or enhance biological diversity.

Table 2-1: RMP Management Goals *(continued)*

Special Status Species (Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate Species, and Other Special Status Fauna and Flora)
1) Manage habitat to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.
2) Manage public use and operations and maintenance to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.
General Land Management
1) Manage Reclamation-owned and managed lands in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.
2) Manage rights-of-way and right-of-use permits in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations.
3) Minimize and consolidate right-of-way and easement grants on Reclamation lands; if granted, monitor and enforce for compliance with permit measures.
4) Reduce and eliminate encroachment onto or from New Melones Lake lands.
Access and Transportation
Manage travel, roads, and trails to provide safe access, minimize resource impacts, and provide for multiple use recreation opportunities within the planning area.
Public Health and Safety
1) Comply with applicable regulations to protect public health and safety.
2) Comply with applicable health and safety requirements for Reclamation staff and representatives.
3) Maintain a safe and healthy environment for employees and the public.
Invasive Species Control
Prevent and control invasive species infestations using integrated pest management techniques.
Fire Management
1) Comply with applicable fire protection regulations (state and local) and fulfill the requirements of the National Fire Plan for Reclamation.
2) Suppress fires that threaten life, property, and public safety to achieve 100 percent protection of adjacent communities and resource/social values at risk from unwanted wildfire.
Cultural Resources
1) Comply with applicable cultural resource laws and regulations, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.
2) Manage for the preservation of significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses.
3) Complete archaeological district process nomination.
Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
While meeting Reclamation obligations and goals, provide opportunities that will result in economic benefits to the community.
Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)
Continue to ensure that management actions will not negatively affect any tribal trust resources or assets by consulting with recognized tribal governments.
General Recreation
1) Provide for diverse recreation within Reclamation's authorities, to afford a safe and quality recreation experience consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives.
2) Achieve fair value for recreation.
3) Ensure that concessions are planned, developed, and managed to meet public needs, are compatible with the natural and cultural resources, and provide a variety of services that are consistent with authorized project purposes.
Aquatic Recreation
1) Provide a diverse range of water-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs and compatible with the existing character of the lake and surrounding lands.

Table 2-1: RMP Management Goals *(continued)*

2) Protect cultural resources, natural resources, and water quality for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.
Land-Based Recreation
1) Provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs and compatible with the existing character of the project lands.
2) Protect cultural and natural resources for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.
3) Provide specific recreation opportunities and adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake-level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions.
4) Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational experiences using trails and pathways.
5) Provide safe recreational hunting opportunities compatible with the Wildlife Management Plan, while respecting private property rights and management authority over wildlife resources.
Interpretive Services and Visitor Information
1) Enhance the public's understanding of the history, purpose, and operation of the project and its archaeological, historical, manmade, natural, and cultural features.
2) Enhance recreation experiences through the Visitor's Center, interpretive services, and volunteer programs.
3) Enhance the quality of recreation for all visitors, including those with physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments.
4) Educate the public about Reclamation, water resources, water conservation, and water safety.
5) Promote stewardship, achieve management objectives, optimize resources, provide enhanced services, and provide educational opportunities.
Utilities
Ensure that utilities such as electrical systems, water and wastewater systems, and telephone service are adequate to meet Reclamation's needs and regulatory requirements and the needs of increasing numbers of visitors.
Facilities, Land Use, and Management Areas
Provide, operate, and maintain facilities appropriate to the needs of Reclamation and the general public.

Management Actions

Management actions comprise the second category of land use planning decisions and are anticipated to achieve the desired outcomes (goals). Management actions are proactive measures or limitations intended to guide Reclamation activities in the planning area and could include monitoring. Actions can be common to all alternatives or unique to a specific alternative. Alternatives may include specific land use restrictions to meet goals and may exclude certain land uses to protect resource values. Because the alternatives identify whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited, allowable uses often include a spatial (i.e., map) component.

2.4 Alternatives Developed

Four management alternatives were developed to address the major planning issues. Each alternative provides direction for resource programs based on the development of specific goals and management actions. Each alternative describes specific issues influencing

land management and emphasizes a different combination of resource uses, allocations, and restoration measures to address issues and resolve conflicts among users. Resource program goals are met in varying degrees across alternatives. Management scenarios for programs not tied to major planning issues or mandated by laws and regulations often contain few or no differences in management between alternatives.

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, is a continuation of the current management and is based on existing planning decisions and amendments. Alternative B, the Increased Use Alternative, emphasizes development of recreational resources and infrastructure with a goal of encouraging and accommodating increasing numbers of visitors, while protecting natural and cultural resources, as required by law. Alternative C, the Conservation Alternative, emphasizes active management of natural and cultural resources and places less emphasis on resource use than Alternative A. Alternative D, the Multiple Use Alternative, seeks to balance the projected increases in visitors and demand for an array of user opportunities with the need to protect, enhance, and conserve the natural and cultural resources that are found in the planning area.

Within the alternatives, Reclamation has designated varying degrees of zoning for New Melones Lake: no ski zones, no wake zones, environmentally sensitive areas, no overnight mooring zones, and no boat zones. (The zones are defined under Section 2.6.5, Alternative Terms and Definitions.) These zones are necessary to achieve Reclamation's management goals. More specifically, in narrow areas or other areas of low visibility, no ski zones are needed to maintain a safe environment for aquatic recreation. No wake zones are needed because a rolling wave action may interfere with other aquatic recreation activities and may also create a hazardous situation in confined or populated areas. In addition, excessive wave actions may contribute to shoreline erosion. Designation of environmentally sensitive areas is beneficial because intensive recreation activities may harm natural or cultural resources in some environmentally sensitive areas. Environmentally sensitive areas may include caves, aquatic spawning habitat, riparian habitat, raptor nesting areas, cultural sites, and other vulnerable habitats. No overnight mooring zones have been designated because overnight uses in these areas may cause inappropriate noise levels, user conflicts, sanitation concerns, increased light disturbances, increased risk of shoreline fires, safety concerns, or water quality concerns. (Please view Appendix B for more information on the Houseboat Policy.) Lastly, areas marked as swimming areas are incompatible with boat use. A no boat zone is needed to maintain a safe environment for aquatic recreation.

2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

Most of the elements suggested by the public were included in one or more of the alternatives. The following alternatives were eliminated from detailed study because they did not meet the purpose and need for the proposal or were outside of the technical, legal, or policy constraints of developing a land use plan for public land resources and uses.

Exclusive Use

Alternatives and general management options proposing exclusive use for profit or benefit of a private entity were not considered. This includes operation of part or all of New Melones Lake Area as a private lake or private recreation area.

Management for Only One Authorized Purpose

Alternatives and general management options proposing maximum development, production, or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources and uses were not considered. Several specific alternatives that were eliminated were full closure of the New Melones Lake Area to recreation and operation of New Melones Lake to maximize recreation.

Full Elimination of Multiple Traditional Uses from the Project without Clear Cause

Alternatives eliminating multiple traditional uses where resource conditions do not justify such measures were not considered reasonable. Each alternative considered allows for some level of support, protection, or use of all resources present in the planning area. In some instances, the alternatives analyzed in detail do include various considerations for eliminating or maximizing individual resource values or uses in specific areas where conflicts exist. Currently, resource conditions do not warrant planning-area-wide prohibition of any particular use. This includes the full prohibition of land use activities that might be considered resource depleting such as mineral development, hunting, fishing, or grazing.

Management of the New Melones Lake Water Project Operations and Maintenance

The RMP/EIS will not address water or power operations or water service contracts. Operation of the New Melones Lake Project is managed through Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP). Management of the land surrounding New Melones Lake is secondary to operation of the CVP and is required to support Reclamation's core mission of delivering water and generating power.

Full Buildout of the Master Plan

Due to the constraints identified in Chapter 1, scoping comments and the Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) assessment, the proposed buildout identified in the 1976 Master Plan is no longer viable. In particular, the requirement for a non-federal cost share partner for infrastructure development and the increase in the cost of operation and maintenance that building such infrastructure would entail do not meet Reclamation's fiscal goals and objectives. In addition, current natural resource and cultural resource best management practices identified several rural natural management areas (such as Bear Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon Management Area) and wildlife mitigation areas (such as Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area) that would no longer be considered appropriate locales for intensive recreation development.

2.6 Description of Alternatives

2.6.1 Alternative A (No Action—Continue Current Management)

Alternative A is the continuation of current management and would continue present management practices based on the existing land use plan and plan amendments. Valid decisions contained in the 1976 Master Plan would be implemented, if they are not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations, policies, and standards would also continue to be implemented, sometimes superseding provisions of the 1976 Master Plan. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use management of public lands in the New Melones Lake Area would continue, and resource values would generally receive attention at present levels. Existing facilities, roads, and trails would not be expanded or updated unless it were done under the direction of specific health and safety or ADA guidelines. Best management practices (BMPs) would continue to be used to address fire response at New Melones Lake. Land management would also comply with land allocation identified in the 1976 Master Plan.

2.6.2 Alternative B (Increased Use)

Alternative B emphasizes active management for access and recreation. Protecting other resources would be secondary to accommodating recreational interests, although all resources would be managed, at minimum, to the levels required by law. This alternative also emphasizes opportunities for developed and motorized recreation. This alternative would focus on increasing access (roads and trails) and expanding facilities (such as concessions and fish cleaning stations). The key components of this alternative are evaluating the addition of recreation facilities at Bowie Flat and the west side of the lake and allowing increased levels of houseboat, water vessel, and equestrian use, in addition to relocating the equestrian staging area. Prescriptive grazing may be allowed to assist in invasive weed removal and fire protection.

2.6.3 Alternative C (Conservation)

Alternative C deemphasizes recreational goals and facilities in favor of natural resource values. There would be less active management of recreational resources and facilities than under the other alternatives. Alternative C emphasizes tighter controls on motorized recreation. The key components of this alternative include potentially decreasing the level of houseboat use and minimizing development of recreation areas in Rural Natural and Rural Developed Areas, in addition to relocating the equestrian staging area. New trails would not be developed unless needed to protect sensitive species and habitats. Access to caves and rock climbing routes would also be restricted to protect unique and special species habitats. This alternative would prevent the use of chemical controls on invasive species and would focus eradication efforts through biological and mechanical means.

2.6.4 Alternative D (Multiple Use)

Alternative D is intended to balance management of recreational uses and resources with management of natural and cultural resources. This alternative was developed by combining those aspects of Alternatives A, B, and C that provide the most balanced outcome for managing public lands within the New Melones Lake area. This alternative

incorporates many management objectives and actions from the first three alternatives and may include new management direction as necessary. This alternative also generally allows for more uses and active resource management than Alternative C but less than Alternative B. The key components of this alternative include maintaining current levels of watercraft use and minimizing development of recreation areas in Rural Natural Areas, in addition to relocating the equestrian staging area. This alternative would update land use allocations based on input from the public and results of the visitor use survey, WROS, and the commercial services plan.

2.6.5 Alternative Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the alternatives and are defined here to provide content in Table 2-2:

No Ski Zone. Prohibited in this zone and pulling or towing of persons on an aquaplane. This restriction applies to water skiing, wake boarding, towable rafts, or other line-towed devices. Wake and teak surfing are also prohibited. Teak surfing is performed by hanging on the swim platform (often made of teak wood) at the back of a boat while the boat is moving forward in slow motion. Often the swimmers will let go of the teak and body surf on the boat's wake.

No Wake Zone. Not allowed in this zone and high speed boating, which may produce a white water wake, and excessive wave action. Boat operation is restricted to five miles per hour or less in order to prevent excessive wave action.

Environmentally Sensitive Area. Not permitted in this area are no overnight use, no wake, no skiing, no excessive noise, and no mining.

No Overnight Mooring Zone: This zone prohibits shoreline tie-up, anchoring, or any other form of securing a vessel for the purpose of overnight occupancy, within ¼ mile of campgrounds, day use areas, launch ramps, and other designated areas.

No Boat Zone: Boats are not allowed within this designated zone.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

All Actions Organized by Resource

This table includes all the actions organized by resource category. When an action influenced multiple resources the action has been listed under the resource most effected by the action.

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Air QUALITY Goal: Comply with applicable air quality regulations to meet public health and safety requirements.			
Action AQ 1. Comply with applicable asbestos regulations regarding friable asbestos. Action AQ 2. Comply with smoke production limitations during period of poor air quality-for example, restrict sanctioned visitor fires and Reclamation use of fire during designated burn days.			
NOISE Goal 1: Comply with applicable noise regulations to meet public health and safety requirements. Goal 2: Manage noise at levels appropriate to the use of particular areas. (Zoning lake and campground policies).			
Action N 1A. Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with boat noise regulations.	Action N 1B. Same as Alternative A.	Action N 1C. Monitor and seek mandatory compliance with boat noise regulations.	Action N 1D. Same as Alternative A.
Action N 2A. Monitor and seek voluntary compliance with visitor noise regulations.	Action N 2B. Same as Alternative A.	Action N 2C. Monitor and seek mandatory compliance with visitor noise regulations.	Action N 2D. Same as Alternative A.
GEOLOGIC RESOURCES (EXCLUDING CAVES) Goal: Allow appropriate uses of geologic resources while protecting resource values (i.e. rock climbing, education, scientific research, soils, minerals, mining).			
Action GR 1. Restrict mining and material excavation within the study area and coordinate with adjacent landowners/managers to prevent degradation of Reclamation lands. Action GR 2. Continue closing old mine workings after conducting appropriate studies. Action GR 3. Review and comment on all proposed mining plans and reclamation plans that may affect the New Melones watershed.			
CAVES Goal 1: Comply with applicable cave management regulation, such as the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act. Goal 2: Protect cave formations and the sensitive resources within them.			
Action C 1. The cave inventory will be updated to identify and classify caves. Action C 2. A protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards will be implemented, as needed. Action C 3. To preserve cave resources, such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and sensitive species, manage recreation use to minimize impacts, as needed.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action C 4A. Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action C 4B. Expand access to caves while complying with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action C 4C. Implement measures to control access to caves.	Action C 4D. Same as Alternative A.
HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY Goal 1: Comply with applicable water quality regulations, such as the Clean Water Act. Goal 2: Conserve water resources and protect the water quality of those resources at New Melones Lake (management action, visitor use). Goal 3: Maintain the ecological health of aquatic habitats on New Melones Lake lands, for example riparian and wetlands.			
Action WR 1. In all Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities, such as parking and restrooms which, among other standards, need to provide for public health and safety, water quality, and ecosystem protection. Action WR 2. Coordinate management of shared watersheds with neighboring landowners and agencies to protect ecological health and water quality. Action WR 3. Review environmental documents for projects within the watershed and provide comments to the lead agency on limiting increases in impervious surfaces, minimizing soil disturbances, and other water quality impacts. Action WR 4. Design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and the loss of soils due to surface runoff. Action WR 5. Where appropriate, design, operate, and maintain recreation area facilities to maximize water conservation. Action WR 6. The number, extent, and adverse effect of stream crossings would be minimized when new roads, trails, or easements are designed. New stream crossings would be designed and existing crossings would be maintained to minimize disruption to riparian vegetation, to prevent alteration of stream flow regime, and to prevent initial and chronic sources of erosion and sedimentation.			
Topic: Sanitation			
Action WR 7. Waste treatment systems will continue to comply with applicable waste discharge requirements. Action WR 8. Promote sound fish waste management through a combination of fish-cleaning facilities and public education. Action WR 9. Implement BMPs, in addition to minimum basic facilities, to improve sanitation facilities and infrastructure and pollution prevention structures, such as lift stations, floating restrooms, and improved waste management facilities. Action WR 10. Locate the restrooms in high-visibility areas to maximize use and minimize vandalism. Action WR 11. Continue to operate and maintain floating restrooms at various locations on the lake. Action WR 12. Locate permanent facilities above gross pool. Use concrete vault toilets or portables where facilities are needed below the gross pool. Action WR 13. Ensure facilities below gross pool are pumped dry or removed before inundation. Action WR 14. Continue to require houseboat operators to meet industry standards in regard to holding tanks. Require marina to provide sewage pump-out service to the public. Action WR 15. Prohibit dumping of any kind on Reclamation lands and water.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action WR 16A. Operate and maintain existing fish-cleaning stations.	Action WR 16B. Continue to operate and maintain the fish-cleaning stations and provide additional fish-cleaning stations closer to the boat launch area in the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action WR 16C. Modify the existing fish-cleaning stations to improve sanitation, and provide an adequate fish-cleaning station closer to the boat launch area in the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Management Areas.	Action WR 16D. Same as Alternative C.
Action WR 17A. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development.	Action WR 17B. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities, showers, recreation vehicle (RV) dump stations, and RV hookups at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development. When water levels decrease, also provide temporary restroom facilities at lower elevations when appropriate.	Action WR 17C. Provide and maintain appropriate restroom facilities at existing high-use areas and as a part of all new development. When water levels decrease also provide temporary restroom facilities at lower elevations when appropriate.	Action WR 17D. Same as Alternative C.
Action WR 18A. Operate and maintain the sanitation facilities at Natural Bridges in the Coyote Creek Management Area with the current configuration where the sanitation facilities are distant from the location of most visitor use.	Action WR 18B. Install a sign that indicates that there are no toilets near Coyote Creek. Additional signs or a restroom facility closer to Natural Bridges would be installed, if feasible.	Action WR 18C. Install a sign that indicates that there are no toilets near Coyote Creek and implement BMPs to resolve lack of adequate sanitation facilities at Natural Bridges in the Coyote Creek Management Area.	Action WR 18D. Same as Alternative C.
Topic: Erosion			
<p>Action WR 19. Locate and design roads, trails, and access easements to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.</p> <p>Action WR 20. Avoid soil disturbance, to the extent possible, of areas that are particularly vulnerable to erosion and sediment loss.</p> <p>Action WR 21. Confine all public vehicles to existing roadways and continue to enforce ban on Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) operation.</p> <p>Action WR 22. Stabilize and construct water bars on all unpaved roads and trails to control erosion.</p> <p>Action WR 23. Prohibit discharge of sediment to any water body.</p> <p>Action WR 24. Identify areas where stormwater runoff from paved surfaces is concentrated and drains directly to water bodies; develop retention basins or other water quality control features for these areas.</p> <p>Action WR 25. Harden surfaces prone to erosion and subject to extensive visitor use through use of compacted aggregate, paving with asphalt or concrete, soil cement, or other hardening agent.</p> <p>Action WR 26. Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation.</p>			
Action WR 27A. Implement prescribed fire techniques such as pile burning in accordance with BMPs to minimize erosion and fire hazard.	Action WR 27B. Do not allow prescribed burning on Reclamation lands. If wildland fire occurs, use BMPs to minimize erosion.	Action WR 27C. Same as Alternative A.	Action WR 27D. Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action WR 28A. In Rural Developed Management Areas, continue closure of former roadways to trailered boat launching, vehicle access, and certain other uses when the facilities do not meet Reclamation standards for public health and safety, and to prevent erosion and protect water quality and natural and cultural resources.	Action WR 28B. If funding becomes available, in Rural Developed Management Areas, update and improve former roadways to be used as lake access points. Construct modern boat launch and support facilities that meet Reclamation standards, while minimizing erosion and water quality impacts.	Action WR 28C. Same as Alternative A.	Action WR 28D. Same as Alternative A.
Topic: Contaminants			
Action WR 29. Comply with applicable hazard waste/materials (HazMat) regulations, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), such as storage, transfer, containment, and disposal of hazardous materials, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints. When appropriate, Reclamation staff, Reclamation contractors, and lessees of facilities at New Melones are encouraged to recycle these materials.			
Action WR 30. Respond to any hazardous waste problems discovered on Reclamation lands immediately to minimize water quality degradation, per RCRA and other applicable regulations.			
Action WR 31. Continue to require emergency spill plans for the marina and all other facilities that store fuels. Continue to require that these facilities have spill containment equipment.			
Action WR 32. Continue to require the marina to use automatic shutoff nozzles and promote the use of fuel/air separators on air vents or tank stems of inboard fuel tanks to reduce the amount of fuel spilled into surface waters during fueling of boats.			
Action WR 33. Restrict vehicle and vessel maintenance, repairs, and construction on Reclamation lands to designated areas.			
Action WR 34. Minimize development and disturbance on serpentine outcrops to control movement of asbestos fibers into water bodies.			
Action WR 35A. The use of pesticides and fertilizers on Reclamation lands shall be in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area.	Action WR 35B. Same as Alternative A.	Action WR 35C. Use only mechanical or biological controls to control invasive species, in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area.	Action WR 35D. Same as Alternative A.
VEGETATION Goal: Maintain and enhance native and unique plant communities.			
Action V 1. Protect and promote native and unique plant communities for long-term sustainability and viability. These communities include oak woodlands, native perennial grasslands, wetlands, vernal pools, and plants associated with serpentine soils.			
Action V 2. Minimize clearing or converting native plant communities caused by human activities.			
Action V 3A. Continue to implement best management practices and standard operating	Action V 3B. Implement the Fire Management Plan for the New Melones Management Area, which includes as an objective using prescribed	Action V 3C. Same as Alternative B.	Action V 3D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
procedures to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.	burning to achieve the following vegetation management goals, objectives, and benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect native habitats from conversion to nonnative habitats by returning fire to the landscape;• Rejuvenate chaparral by reducing brush density and creating variable structure and age composition in chaparral communities;• Rejuvenate oak woodland by curtailing brush encroachment; and• Prevent severe infestation of some invasive plant species.		
Action V 4. Continue to implement the Vegetation Management Plan.			
Topic: Invasive Species (For more information, see Invasive Species Control, page 2-28).			
Action V 5A. When appropriate, reseed degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with native seed.	Action V 5B. When appropriate, reseed degraded or impacted grassland and woodland habitats with seed.	Action V 5C. Same as Alternative A.	Action V 5D. Same as Alternative A.
Action V 6A. Use of herbicides as a vegetation treatment option will be carefully examined, for potential impacts on water sources, wildlife habitat, and cultural/traditional uses.	Action V 6B. Same as Alternative A.	Action V 6C. Use only mechanical controls to reduce infestations of invasive species.	Action V 6D. Same as Alternative A.
Action V 7A. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle).	Action V 7B. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle) where inexpensive opportunities for control exist.	Action V 7C. Continue to prevent severe invasions of exotics (such as yellow star thistle) by restricting activities in areas prone to weed invasion and using mechanical and biological means of control.	Action V 7D. Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Native Plant Communities			
Action V 8. Restore or enhance lost or degraded native communities, where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitation of increased cost of operation or maintenance.			
Action V 9. Provide for public education on the ecology and cultural importance of native plant communities, such as oak woodland, native perennial grasslands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, and plants associated with serpentine soils.			
Action V 10. Minimize disturbance detrimental to native plant communities, such as infrastructure development, extensive visitor use, clearing, or other human activity that might cause conversion of plant communities.			
Action V 11. Preserve serpentine-based communities by performing a plant survey during project planning and, where possible, modify the proposed project to avoid occurrences of special status plants, such as <i>Chlorogalum grandiflora</i> and <i>Allium tuolumnense</i> .			
Action V 12. When practical, avoid serpentine soils especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values.			
Action V 13. Survey and inventory New Melones Lake Area lands to establish baseline plant communities.			
Action V 14A. Use existing population data on plant communities associated with serpentine soils for long-term planning.	Action V 14B. Same as Alternative A.	Action V 14C. Develop a full baseline survey of the populations of serpentine special status plants at New Melones Lake, such as <i>Chlorogalum grandiflora</i> and <i>Allium tuolumnense</i> . This survey could then be used for monitoring key plant populations and project planning.	Action V 14D. Same as Alternative C.
Topic: Wetlands			
Action V 15. When practical, avoid wetland communities, such as riparian communities along streams, rivers, or shoreline, wet meadow communities, seeps, vernal pools, or other water-dependent community, especially when an activity or visitor use may cause erosion or compaction that would degrade habitat values.			
Action V 16. Educate about the ecology and cultural importance of wetland vegetation communities, such as riparian areas, seeps, and vernal pools.			
Action V 17. Protect, restore, or enhance degraded riparian communities where appropriate and when opportunities exist, subject to limitations of increased cost of operation or maintenance.			
Action V 18. When possible, plan management activities that may impact wetlands for the dry season.			
Action V 19. Promote stream bank and reservoir shoreline stability to encourage establishment of riparian vegetation.			
Action V 20. Manage wetland communities to ensure no net loss of these habitats, in compliance with USACE and EPA policy.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
FISH AND WILDLIFE Goal: Manage for habitat quality to maintain or enhance biological diversity.			
Action FW 1. Continue to operate within management guidelines for fish and wildlife resources from the 1976 Master Plan, as well as appropriate regulations and accepted standards for Reclamation. Action FW 2. Fulfill mitigation requirements in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. Action FW 3. Document, conserve, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife resources, where appropriate, and when opportunities exist that will not increase the cost of operation or maintenance. Action FW 4. Leash or cage all domestic pets when on Reclamation lands. Action FW 5. Develop and fund programs that improve habitat for wildlife within New Melones Lake area. Such programs include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, including vernal pools and drainages;Practice oak silviculture for hardwood-dependent species;Maintain snags and install nest boxes for cavity nesting birds, including wood ducks;Provide artificial nest structures for osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) to supplement nests subject to inundation.Provide wildlife water facilities, such as quail guzzlers, similar to those constructed in the Peoria Mountain Wildlife Area. Action FW 6. Prohibit release of any introduced species without permit from the CDFG or release of domestic animals onto Reclamation lands. Action FW 7. Trespass grazing will be minimized by maintaining fence lines and posting signs. When trespass occurs, Reclamation will coordinate with local landowners and law enforcement to remove the animals. Action FW 8. Throughout the New Melones Lake Area, allow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, such as EO 13443, except where prohibited or restricted. Action FW 9. The CDFG would be encouraged to monitor and enforce rules and regulations related to hunting and fishing. Action FW 10. Continue to monitor New Melones lands for feral species, such as wild pigs, that may cause resource damage. If a feral animal population is confirmed, Reclamation will take action to control those populations using the methods described in the Integrated Pest Management Plan.			
Action FW 11B. Continue to use best management practices and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.	Action FW 11B. Implement the Fire Management Plan by the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage vegetation in areas outside of fuel treatment project perimeters to retain sufficient wildlife cover;Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats by minimizing disruption and loss;	Action FW 11C. Same as Alternative B.	Action FW 11D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance wildlife habitat values, features, and diversity;Restore wildlife habitat values of damaged areas through revegetation and restoration; andDesign fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on aesthetic, scenic, and ecological resources and consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, and soil stabilization.		
<p>Action FW 12. Continue to implement wildlife management requirements included in the Baseline Conservation Camp Lease by having the lessee perform the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide fire suppression services for Reclamation lands at the New Melones Lake area;Devote 250 person-days per year for wildlife enhancement project;Implement an Annual Operating Plan that includes erosion control projects, tree planting, constructing fire line to protect wildlife area, and maintaining and constructing water impoundments, among others;Restrict access of inmates and Forestry/Corrections staff beyond the camp-leased area; andProvide at least 40 hours of dozer and operator time to assist development of water impoundments and maintenance of fire roads.			
<p>Action FW 13A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue to implement Interim Management Plan by the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to restrict public vehicle use for resource protection;Build designated trails per trail plan;Close and restore unauthorized trails;Implement vegetative management plan;Environmental interpretation;	<p>Action FW 13B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action FW 13C. Fully implement the Interim Management Plan by adopting the interim plan in the New Melones Resource Management Plan, thereby integrating the preferred actions described in the Peoria Wildlife Interim Management Plan into the long-term management at New Melones.</p>	<p>Action FW 13D. Same as Alternative C</p>

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limit camping to group camping permitted by reservation only;Reseed/restore unauthorized roads and impacted areas;Continue to ban shooting and target practice; andAllow hunting in accordance with applicable regulations, except where prohibited or restricted.			
Action FW 14A. For existing purposes and levels of use, continue to allow Baseline Conservation Camp to operate on the existing footprint with the existing water supply and water treatment facilities of the camp in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area.	Action FW 14B. Allow Baseline Conservation Camp to expand operations such as periodic fire camps and/or different uses of the facility than currently in place. The existing water supply and waste treatment facilities would be upgraded and expanded to meet appropriate standards, and Reclamation would receive fair value compensation for any expanded use.	Action FW 14C. Reduce the footprint of the operation of Baseline Conservation Camp within the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. In addition, the water supply and waste treatment system would need to meet appropriate standards.	Action FW 14D. Continue to allow Baseline Conservation Camp to operate on the existing footprint and upgrade existing facilities. Replace facilities for existing uses only. In addition, the water supply and waste treatment system would need to meet appropriate standards.
Action FW 15A. Continue to allow Baseline Conservation Camp to use the existing access road, which is shared with the New Melones Power Plant.	Action FW 15B. To allow for improved security of Reclamation infrastructure, require the existing access road to be relocated. This is so that access to the reservoir infrastructure does not require driving through the camp.	Action FW 15C. Same as Alternative A.	Action FW 15D. Same as Alternative A.
Topic: Fisheries			
NOTE: When possible, Reclamation will follow directives to provide water releases from New Melones Reservoir to maintain downstream water quality and fisheries. A revised plan of operations is under development and will supersede any interim measures. Reservoir operations and water releases are beyond the scope of the management of the New Melones Field Office, Central California Area Office (CCAO), or this resource management plan.			
Action FW 16. Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG.			
Action FW 17. Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries.			
Action FW 18. Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<p>Action FW 19. Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground.</p> <p>Action FW 20. Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources.</p> <p>Action FW 21. Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities.</p> <p>Action FW 22. Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat.</p>			
Action FW 23A. Minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream of the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.	Action FW 23B. Same as Alternative A.	Action FW 23C. Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas located in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.	Action FW 23D. Same as Alternative A.
Action FW 24A. Minimize disturbance of known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.	Action FW 24B. Same as Alternative A.	Action FW 24C. Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance in known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.	Action FW 24D. Same as Alternative A.
<p>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate Species, and Other Special Status Fauna and Flora)</p> <p>Goal: Manage habitat to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife and plant species.</p> <p>Goal: Manage public use and operations and maintenance to contribute to the conservation of special status fish, wildlife, and plant species.</p>			
<p>Action SSS 1. Protect wildlife species and habitats legally listed or proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>Action SSS 2. In rural natural management areas, continue to minimize impacts on sensitive natural and cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use.</p> <p>Action SSS 3. Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats, such as cave and riparian habitats, by minimizing disruption and loss.</p> <p>Action SSS 4. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue to implement the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan and consider seasonal use restrictions when legally mandated to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats and species, for example restrict recreational uses during breeding periods for raptors and bats.</p>			
Topic: Raptors			
<p>Action SSS 5. Conduct semiannual inventories of eagles, ospreys, and other raptors.</p> <p>Action SSS 6. Maintain, construct, or modify osprey platforms and other nesting structures, as needed.</p> <p>Action SSS 7. Minimize disturbance to nesting raptors by regulating public uses, visitor density, and visiting hours or other appropriate measures.</p>			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Bats			
Action SSS 8. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources.			
Action SSS 9A. During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species, such as the mastiff bat, on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Climbing routes in the area are monitored for effects on sensitive species.	Action SSS 9B. Same as Alternative A.	Action SSS 9C. Restrict access to climbing routes near sensitive bat species caves during bat habitation periods.	Action SSS 9D. Same as Alternative A.
Action SSS 10A. As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, Reclamation would develop and implement a climbing management plan.	Action SSS 10B. Same as Alternative A.	Action SSS 10C. Develop and implement a climbing management plan that includes designated climbing routes and areas.	Action SSS 10D. Same as Alternative A.
GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT Goal 1: Manage Reclamation owned and managed lands in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations. Goal 2: Manage rights-of-way and right-of-use permits in accordance with authorized project purposes and applicable laws and regulations. Goal 3: Minimize and consolidate right-of-way and easement grants on Reclamation lands; if granted, monitor and enforce for compliance with permit measures. Goal 4: Reduce and eliminate encroachment onto or from New Melones Lake lands.			
Action LM 1. Continue the designation of the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR 423, for the protection of public health and safety, the protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources, the protection of environmental and scenic values, scientific research, the security of Reclamation facilities and the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Reclamation has established schedules of visiting hours, public use limits, special uses and other conditions, restrictions and prohibitions on particular uses or activities. 43 CFR 423 and subsequently established special use area regulations are used to maintain law and order and protect persons and property within the New Melones Lake Project.			
Topic: Coordination			
Action LM 2. Continue to encourage and support cooperative planning within the Stanislaus watershed between Reclamation, other affected federal, state, and local agencies, and the public.			
Action LM 3. Review and participate in the development of regional plans on adjacent lands to ensure that land use decisions and activities are compatible with those at New Melones. Coordinate with the Tuolumne and Calaveras County Departments of Planning to review and contribute to resource and land use plans that may affect the Stanislaus watershed.			
Action LM 4. Comment on environmental documents for new major projects within the watershed to prevent potential adverse effects on Reclamation lands.			
Action LM 5. Coordinate with applicable agencies (such as Tuolumne County, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USFWS, and CDFG) and appropriate private entities to develop measures to protect and preserve the ecological and cultural values at New Melones Lake. Measures would address issues such as access, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action LM 6. Coordinate with applicable agencies (such as Pacific Gas and Electric, Calaveras County Water Agency, Calaveras County, BLM, USFWS, and CDFG) and appropriate private entities to develop measures to maintain effective management of Camp Nine Road. Measures would address issues such as safety, access, recreational shooting, and the potential disturbance of vegetation, soils, and geologic features.			
Topics: Rights of Use			
Action LM 7. Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively used for project purposes.			
Action LM 8. Avoid/minimize future easements and rights-of-way over Reclamation lands. If allowed, new easements (e.g., roadways, electrical transmission lines, pipelines, structures, and facilities) must adhere to strict guidelines to avoid potential operational and resource impacts.			
Action LM 9. Maintenance of right-of-way utility crossings will be coordinated with Reclamation before any land alterations.			
Action LM 10. Continue to prohibit certain activities on federal land without a permit as per 43 CFR 423. Prohibited activities at New Melones Lake include grazing or watering livestock, trespassing into areas specified as off-limits to public access (e.g., operations facilities and areas with sensitive ecological or cultural resources), the use of motorized vehicles in any areas other than on paved or specified roads, commercial services, construction, placing or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, pump, well, or other improvement.			
Action LM 11A. Continue Reclamation’s efforts to eliminate unpermitted grazing and water access on lands under its jurisdiction.	Action LM 11B. Continue Reclamation’s efforts to eliminate unpermitted grazing and water access on lands under its jurisdiction. In appropriate areas, and with an approved permit and grazing plan, Reclamation may allow grazing and stock watering as a means to control invasive plant species and to reduce fire danger.	Action LM 11C. Same as Alternative B.	Action LM 11D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Trespass and Unauthorized Use			
Action LM 12. Continue to enforce regulations related to trespass onto, or the unauthorized use of, the land and water under its jurisdiction. Trespass and unauthorized use, when permitted to continue, deprives the public of its rightful use and enjoyment of the public lands. It is the general policy of Reclamation to facilitate and ensure the proper use of land resources. Benefits to the public as a whole resulting from nonexclusive uses of federal lands is the primary management emphasis.			
Action LM 13. Continue to implement a program to periodically patrol areas where unpermitted grazing or water access occurs, as well as areas where off-road vehicle use is known to occur.			
Action LM 14. Pursue cooperation aimed at preventing unauthorized use and trespass by continuing to implement a program of public information, education, and contact (for example, through signs, pamphlets, maps, and public notices). Inform neighboring landowners and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies of changes to the boundaries of Reclamation managed lands.			
Action LM 15. Continue to enforce Reclamation’s off-road vehicles policy and regulation, which states that all Reclamation lands are closed to off-road vehicles, except for those areas specifically designated for such use (43 CFR 420). No off-road vehicles are allowed at New Melones Lake; vehicles must remain on paved or other specified hard surface roads. In accordance with 43 CFR 420, vehicular access to fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles and those used for officially designated purposes is allowed.			
Action LM 16. Resolve land ownership and jurisdictional uncertainties with other agencies when discrepancies are identified.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION Goal: Manage travel, roads, and trails to provide safe access, minimize resource impacts and provide for multiple use recreation opportunities within the planning area.			
Topic: Access			
<p>Action TA 1. Continue the designation of the New Melones Lake Project as a Special Use Area, pursuant to 43 CFR 423, which states that areas within the Special Use Area will remain open unless closed by Reclamation. Closure of federal lands under 43 CFR 423 includes publication of a notice in the Federal Register and in the local press.</p> <p>Action TA 2. Continue to restrict public access to, and enforce a no trespassing zone in, the New Melones Dam and Spillway Management Area, which includes the New Melones power plant and outlet works, Stanislaus River downstream to buoy line, the Visitor Overlook, and area leased to the California Division of Forestry for Baseline Conservation Camp. To protect public health and safety, these areas are closed to public vehicles, hunting, and fishing.</p> <p>Action TA 3. Manage access to caves in the Camp Nine, Coyote Creek, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas to comply with federal law and meet health and safety, as well as to minimize adverse impacts on cave organisms, microclimate, and paleontological resources.</p>			
<p>Action TA 4A. The following areas are closed to public vehicles: Mark Twain Lake Access (past vehicle barricades), Old Parrotts Ferry Road, Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Melones Recreation Area, French Flat Recreation Area, Bear Creek Recreation Area, as well as the West Side, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Carson Hill, Dam and Spillway, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas.</p>	<p>Action TA 4B. The following areas are closed to public vehicles: Mark Twain launch ramp (past vehicle barricades), Peoria Wildlife Management Area, French Flat Recreation Area, and Bear Creek Recreation Area; Old Parrotts Ferry Road and Melones Recreation Area would be reopened with updated facilities, if feasible.</p>	<p>Action TA 4C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 4D. The following areas are closed to public vehicles: Mark Twain (past vehicle barricades), Old Parrotts Ferry Road, Peoria Wildlife Management Area, Melones Recreation Area, French Flat Recreation Area, Bear Creek Recreation Area, as well as the West Side, Bowie Flat, Greenhorn Creek, Dam and Spillway, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas. Old Parrotts Ferry Road and Melones Recreation Area could be reopened with updated facilities if feasible.</p>
<p>Action TA 5A. Operate and maintain substandard facilities for lake access in Glory Hole, Tuttletown, Mark Twain, Camp Nine, Parrotts Ferry, and Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas. When warranted, restrict access to these substandard facilities.</p>	<p>Action TA 5B. Operate and maintain facilities at Glory Hole and Tuttletown Management Areas. Update and modernize minimum basic facilities in the Mark Twain, Camp Nine, and Parrotts Ferry Management Area that provide lake access.</p>	<p>Action 5C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action TA 5D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
Topic: Roads			
<p>Action TA 6. Operate and maintain roads and parking facilities to appropriate regulations and guidelines on Reclamation property and for access to the New Melones Lake area.</p> <p>Action TA 7. Reclamation will continue to operate and maintain a system of recreation area access roads within the influence of the reservoir, which will be maintained as fluctuating water levels permit. Generally these roads above gross pool in the main lake area will be paved, while roads below gross pool will have a stabilized aggregate surface.</p>			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action TA 8. Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan.			
Action TA 9A. Operate and maintain substandard facilities at Camp Nine Management Area. When warranted, restrict access to substandard facilities, per 43 CFR 423, to meet health and safety standards for roads at Camp Nine Management Area.	Action TA 9B. Where appropriate, update and modernize the Camp Nine Road for safe vehicle access and egress from Camp Nine Management Area.	Action TA 9C. Same as Alternative B.	Action TA 9D. Same as Alternative B.
Action TA 10A. Operate and maintain substandard existing facilities at Coyote Creek Management Area. When warranted, restrict access to substandard facilities, per 43 CFR 423, to meet health and safety standards for parking and roads at Coyote Creek Management Area.	Action TA 10B. Where appropriate, update and modernize the access road and parking for safe vehicle access and egress onto Parrotts Ferry Road in the Coyote Creek Management Area.	Action TA 10C. Same as Alternative B.	Action TA 10D. Same as Alternative B.
Action TA 11A. Operate and maintain roads to appropriate regulations and guidelines on Reclamation property and for access to the New Melones Lake area.	Action TA 11B. Where appropriate, consider road maintenance agreements on management of Reclamation roads, such as along Glory Hole Road and Whittle Ranch Road.	Action TA 11C. Same as Alternative B.	Action TA 11D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Aircraft			
Action TA 12. Continue to implement the existing New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 2-1).			
Action TA 13A. Monitor aircraft for compliance with appropriate regulations, such as 43 CFR 423, and report airplane -related problems on New Melones Lake to the Federal Aviation Administration, as needed. Reclamation reports aircraft that are too near infrastructure and when there are near misses between seaplanes and boats.	Action TA 13B. Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions, from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure.	Action TA 13C. Increase and enforce designated no-fly zones near critical infrastructure for all aircraft and restrict access to New Melones Lake for seaplane activities.	Action TA 13D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas			
Action TA 14. Continue to manage the lands in the Westside and Bowie Flat Management Areas for project purposes. The Master Plan land use allocation was Recreation Low Density and Lands Excess to the Project Needs; this area was not included in any designated recreation area. The WROS designation is Rural Natural and the facilities within this area include several fire roads. Public access to this area is via boat from New Melones Lake.			
Action TA 15A. Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively utilized for project purposes.	Action TA 15B. If lands no longer serve project purposes, update management of those lands such as disposal of those lands or transfer of those lands.	Action TA 15C. Continue to assess how lands contained within the New Melones Lake Area are being effectively utilized for project purposes.	Action TA 15D. Same as Alternative C.
Action TA 16A. Continue to manage the land at Westside Management Area with an emphasis on conservation.	Action TA 16B. If an appropriate managing partner can be identified, assess the feasibility of future additional recreation facilities within Westside and Bowie Flat management areas that can meet the fiscal goals of Reclamation and New Melones Lake Area's project purposes.	Action TA 16C. Continue to manage the land at Westside Management Area with an emphasis on conservation.	Action TA 16D. Same as Alternative C.
Action TA 17A. Operate and maintain the existing fire road and trail system in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.	Action TA 17B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses such as mountain biking, equestrian use, and hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside Management Areas.	Action TA 17C. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and Westside management areas.	Action TA 17D. Same as Alternative B.
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY Goal 1: Comply with applicable regulations to protect public health and safety. Goal 2: Comply with applicable health and safety requirements for Reclamation staff and representatives. Goal 3: Maintain a safe and healthy environment for employees and the public.			
Action PHS 1. Provide staff levels and funding levels commensurate with recreation visitation in order to maintain the level and quality of services expected by the visitors to New Melones.			
Action PHS 2. Project specific safety plans are formulated by Reclamation or its agent for individual operations and maintenance projects. In these plans, project personnel will identify precautionary measures to prevent accidents from common recurring hazards or unsafe conditions.			
Action PHS 3. Continue to implement the CCAO Ranger Policy, which prevents some unacceptable public behavior and increases visitor awareness through ranger interaction with the public. By patrolling New Melones, rangers can identify and report unacceptable behavior, be a visible presence on the land and water, and educate the public on a case-by-case basis on policies, rules, and regulations that apply at New Melones Lake.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<p>Action PHS 4. In support of primary emergency services, rangers provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake.</p> <p>Action PHS 5. Continue to develop appropriate educational opportunities on water, boating safety, and general boating etiquette. In addition, educate boaters on a case-by-case basis by monitoring boating activities and seeking voluntary compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.</p> <p>Action PHS 6. Where necessary, ensure adequate closure of unsafe or potentially hazardous areas (e.g., caves, old mine shafts, exposed steep areas, and high fire hazards areas) in compliance with closure procedures in 43 CFR 423.</p> <p>Action PHS 7. Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys as per the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan.</p> <p>Action PHS 8. Continue to coordinate response to health and safety issues with local, state, federal entities. Continue communications with representatives from Reclamation, BLM, USFWS, CDFG, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, and others to share information and work cooperatively on public safety issues. This includes improving communication capability in remote areas such as Camp Nine Management Area.</p> <p>Action PHS 9. Encourage Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to monitor ongoing and reclaimed mining operations for compliance with permitting criteria.</p>			
<p>Action PHS 10A. Unless expressly prohibited, hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, or neighboring residence.</p>	<p>Action PHS 10B. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action PHS 10C. To protect health and safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy would include compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 134255, throughout New Melones Lake.</p>	<p>Action PHS 10D. Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>Action PHS 11A. Inform visitors of fire activity in the area, including suppression and prescribed burns, through personal contact, announcements, signs, and news articles.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11B. Continue to implement a project-wide fire management plan and integrated weed management plan. These plans include procedures for notifying the public and local, state, and federal agencies of fire activity in the area, including suppression and prescribed burns.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action PHS 11D. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Topic: Law Enforcement</p>			
<p>Action PHS 12. Address illegal activities in all management areas through continued law enforcement presence, management controls such as gates and visiting hours, signs, and education.</p> <p>Action PHS 13. Continue to implement a long-term strategy for effective law enforcement at New Melones Lake by cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies.</p> <p>Action PHS 14. Continue working relationships and oversee contracts with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide law enforcement services.</p> <p>Action PHS 15. Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California.</p>			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action PHS 16A. Continue the existing working relationships and contracts with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide law enforcement services, which are based on patrols and dispatch from the respective county sheriff station.	Action PHS 16B. As part of the working relationships with Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, explore the feasibility of siting a sheriff substation with lake access to each county, which would decrease the response time for a sheriff to respond to disturbances in the New Melones Lake area.	Action PHS 16C. Same as Alternative A.	Action PHS 16D. Same as Alternative B.
INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL Goal: Prevent and control invasive species infestations using integrated pest management techniques.			
Action ISC 1A. Continue to use BMPs and SOPs to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire.	Action ISC 1B. Implement a project-wide fire management plan.	Action ISC 1C. Same as Alternative B.	Action ISC 1D. Same as Alternative B.
Action ISC 2. Coordinate and share information on invasive species with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. Currently the Agricultural Departments of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties track detection of new types of pests and the severity of infestation within their prospective counties. Action ISC 3. Evaluate all pest problems and previous pest control measures. Action ISC 4. Use integrated pest management strategies that determine the acceptable level of pest populations rather than attempting to eradicate populations; apply pesticides only when necessary, considering alternative measures first or as a means of complementing pesticide application. Action ISC 5. When pesticide application is necessary for invasive species control, targeted chemicals will be used when available, such as Transline for thistle control.			
Action ISC 6A. Continue to implement an integrated pest management plan that describes appropriate techniques for invasive species control (i.e., quagga/zebra mussels, yellow star thistle, New Zealand mud snail). These techniques include pesticide and herbicide application, grazing, fire, mechanical techniques, and biological control.	Action ISC 6B. Same as Alternative A.	Action ISC 6C. Continue to implement a portion of an integrated pest management plan that describes appropriate techniques for invasive species control (i.e. quagga/zebra mussels, yellow star thistle New Zealand mud snail). These techniques include grazing, fire, mechanical techniques, and biological control.	Action ISC 6D. Same as Alternative A.
Action ISC 7A. All grazing leases within New Melones lands are now expired and have not been renewed. Continuance of grazing could be allowed with the development of approved grazing plans.	Action ISC 7B. Upon completing approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas except high-density recreation areas. Implement strict BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, to increase the abundance of desired plant populations, and to generate revenue.	Action ISC 7C. Upon completing approved grazing plans, allow grazing in all areas except high density recreation areas. Implement strict BMPs to protect water quality. This grazing could be used to control invasive species, to reduce the fire hazard, and to increase the abundance of desired plant populations.	Action ISC 7D. Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
FIRE MANAGEMENT Goal 1: Comply with applicable fire protection regulations (state and local) and fulfill the requirements of the National Fire Plan for Reclamation. Goal 2: Suppress fires that threaten life, property, and public safety to achieve 100% protection of adjacent communities and resource/social values at risk from unwanted wildfire.			
<p>Action FM 1A. Continue to implement project-wide BMPs to reduce fire danger and respond to wildland fire. The measures currently implemented are as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain defensible space and implement BMPs to ensure public health and safety.2. Provide for immediate and effective fire response.3. Project lands are within a USFS and CAL FIRE mutual aid zone, with CAL FIRE having responsibility for fire control. Fire prevention and suppression activities will be supervised and coordinated by CAL FIRE through the unit chief stationed at the Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit in San Andreas.4. Maintain interagency agreements for fire prevention and suppression activities.5. Use natural or in-place barriers (e.g., roads, streams, ponds, wetlands) to minimize the need for fire line construction.6. Minimize the bulldozing of fire lines in high erosion areas. If unavoidable, construct on contour or stabilize with water bars to control erosion.7. Fire suppression strategies will be tailored to address areas of significant constraints including critical habitat for wildlife, threatened and endangered	<p>Action FM 1B, 1C, and 1D. Fully implement the project-wide fire management plan. The additional measures for full implementation include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. While protecting life and property, use wildfire or prescribed fire as a tool for resource management.2. Burned area environmental response plan will be followed including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considering nonpoint sources of pollution resulting from wildfire suppression and rehabilitation, while recognizing safety and operational priorities of fighting wildfires;• Consulting with staff archaeologist, botanist, wildlife biologist, and other staff specialists to evaluate fire and suppression operations effects and to determine if additional restoration is necessary; and• Rehabilitate burned areas with native plant species.3. Meet resource, watershed, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, and vegetation/fuels management goals and objectives through the appropriate use of fire and nonfire fuel treatments. Implement appropriate decisions, as identified in the final draft New Melones Fire Management Plan.4. Use low-intensity prescribed burns to establish fire breaks within wetland/riparian buffer zones.5. Carefully plan burning to adhere to weather and fuel conditions that will help achieve the desired results while minimizing water quality impacts.6. In prescriptions for burns, fire lines should be constructed on contour or stabilized with water bars or other appropriate techniques to control erosion, protect water quality, and prevent rolling fire brands. Prevent runoff from directly entering water bodies.7. Create fuel breaks with blended or feathered edges through selective thinning and by cutting indentations in brush to create bays.		

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<p>species, areas of soil instability, areas of other critical resource constraints (cultural), and where plant communities are at risk due to current conditions/times of year or other ecological constraints.</p> <p>8. To the extent practical, sensitive sites will be protected from damage by heavy mechanized equipment.</p> <p>9. In coordination with CAL FIRE, implement site closure procedures during periods of extreme fire danger according to the state fire warning system.</p> <p>10. Post signs and gate main entry points to Reclamation lands. Signs will give the current fire hazard warning status or the reason for site closure, if necessary, under extreme fire hazard conditions.</p> <p>11. Limit open campfires to designated overnight campgrounds and within provided fire rings and pedestal grills.</p> <p>12. Maintain adequate grass and brush clearance directly adjacent to roads and in recreation areas consistent with the Integrated Pest Management Plan and special status plant requirements.</p> <p>13. Design fuel breaks and firebreaks in a manner that minimizes impacts on aesthetic, scenic, and ecological resources and consider resource objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat management, soil stabilization public safety, ignition sources, and safety of firefighters.</p>			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<p>14. Retain clumps of unmodified vegetation within fuel breaks to provide cover and food for wildlife.</p> <p>15. Retain mature oaks for their wildlife benefits and scenic qualities.</p> <p>16. Fuel hazard reduction activities will be designed and implemented to maintain adequate grass and brush clearance directly adjacent to high use roads and in Reclamation recreation areas during the fire season, consistent with the Vegetation Management Plan for New Melones Lake objectives and special status plant requirements.</p> <p>17. Ensure that CAL FIRE – Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit has updated fire suppression information, including boundary maps and fire management units.</p>			
<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES</p> <p>Goal 1: Comply with applicable cultural resource laws and regulations, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.</p> <p>Goal 2: Manage for the preservation of significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses.</p> <p>Goal 3: Complete archaeological district process nomination.</p>			
<p>Action CR 1. Reclamation will manage cultural resources in the New Melones Project Area as called for in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the New Melones Project, Reclamation Policy and Directives and Standards for Cultural Resources Management and the Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains on Reclamation Lands, Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 411, the NHPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 36 CFR Part 800, 36 CFR Part 60, 36 CFR Part 79, and 43 CFR Part 10.</p> <p>Action CR 2. In all Rural Natural Management Areas, continue to minimize impacts on high value natural and cultural resources by maintaining dispersed visitor use.</p> <p>Action CR 3. Whenever possible, protect historic properties by avoidance through Reclamation's planning process.</p> <p>Action CR 4. Complete electronic data base and GIS mapping of known cultural resources.</p> <p>Action CR 5. Promote protection of cultural resources through visitor education and public outreach.</p> <p>Action CR 6. Provide protective signs, educational printed handouts, interpretative programs, and ranger interface with the public to explain the values of cultural resources.</p>			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
<p>Action CR 7. Protect historic properties through the use of protective fencing, coverings, and exclusion, as applicable.</p> <p>Action CR 8. Protect historic properties through ranger patrol.</p> <p>Action CR 9. For site-specific projects, consider the effects on cultural resources through implementation of the Section 106 process of the NHPA, ARPA, and the NAGPRA.</p> <p>Action CR 10. Excavation of cultural resources will be permitted in accordance with the ARPA and the American Antiquities Act. Intentional removal of human remains under NAGPRA will require an ARPA permit.</p> <p>Action CR 11. Permitting for cultural resources survey and excavation will be processed by Reclamation's Regional Office.</p> <p>Action CR 12. Interpret selected sites for the education and enjoyment of the general public; give priority to sites within public use areas in proximity to special geologic, cultural, or natural features; and give special attention to public use areas being degraded through natural or human impacts.</p> <p>Action CR 13. Produce scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive cultural resources displays and brochures.</p> <p>Action CR 14. Continue to operate the visitor center and maintain cultural resources interpretive displays.</p> <p>Action CR 15. Minimize publicity and access to sensitive cave locations; avoid constructing trails to caves and install gates where necessary for conservation purposes.</p> <p>Action CR 16. Require permits and review for all research projects within and around cave resources.</p> <p>Action CR 17. For all actions at New Melones Lake, if buried cultural resources, such as chipped or ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work in that area and within 100 feet (30 meters) of the find would be stopped immediately until a Reclamation archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment and avoidance measures in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).</p> <p>Action CR 18. Complete Section 106 before initiating any ground-disturbing actions under the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan. No construction related to the Peoria Wildlife Mitigation Area Plan can be implemented until a Section 106 consultation is completed.</p> <p>Action CR 19. In areas of known archaeological resources, protect sensitive cultural resources by using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and by coordinating with a cultural resource advisor during fire suppression activities. Such activities must be coordinated with Reclamation cultural resources staff.</p> <p>Action CR 20. In emergency circumstances, where heavy equipment was employed without prior on-site coordination, Reclamation will conduct post-fire archaeological evaluations to assess and document equipment damage to cultural resources. Damage assessments and possible mitigation work may be required.</p> <p>Action CR 21. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use at Table Mountain in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources.</p>			
<p>Action CR 22A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, continue operation of the Archaeological Storage Facility near Baseline Conservation Camp.</p>	<p>Action CR 22B. Move the New Melones Archeological Storage Facility to a site outside of the wildlife mitigation area in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area and to a location that meets modern standards for an archaeological storage facility.</p>	<p>Action CR 22C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action CR 22D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Goal: While meeting Reclamations obligations and goals, provide opportunities that will result in economic benefits to the community.			
Action SE 1. Coordinate with local agencies to promote tourism within the region.			
Action SE 2. Comply with EO 12898 by identifying and addressing any disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on low-income and minority populations.			
INDIAN TRUST ASSETS (ITAs) Goal: Continue to ensure that management actions will not negatively affect any tribal trust resources or assets by consulting with recognized tribal governments.			
Action ITA 1. Early in the planning process, consultation should be initiated with appropriate Indian Tribes/Nations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concerning potential ITAs. The initial contact with the Indian Tribes/Nations in the immediate area should be government-to-government in a face-to-face meeting, if possible. Coordination should also occur with Reclamation's Native American Affairs Office and the BIA to identify other Indian tribes/nations outside the immediate area that may be interested or affected.			
GENERAL RECREATION Goal 1: Provide for diverse recreation within Reclamation’s authorities, to afford a safe and quality recreation experience consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives. Goal 2: Achieve fair value for recreation. Goal 3: Ensure that concessions are planned, developed and managed to meet public needs, are compatible with the natural and cultural resources and provide a variety of services which are consistent with authorized project purposes.			
Action R 1. Develop a long-term strategy that maintains and, wherever appropriate, optimizes the diversity of recreation and level of service found at New Melones Lake.			
Action R 2. Meet visitor demand for specific recreation opportunities within the constraints of the existing infrastructure and while complying with existing applicable regulations, policies, laws, and funding.			
Action R 3. Continue to update recreation management, where it supports Reclamation’s mission, to accommodate trends in demographics and recreation interests of the potential visitor to New Melones Lake.			
Action R 4. Recreation activities would be sufficiently varied to accommodate the diversity of potential visitors to New Melones Lake. Activities target different age groups, a range of ability levels, and a mix of cultures.			
Action R 5. When special events support Reclamation’s mission, events such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events, may be allowed by permit.			
Action R 6. Concessionaire agreements with private enterprises would be explored and, where appropriate, supported to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities and to disseminate Reclamation information.			
Action R 7A. Minimize conflicts and promote safety between recreational activities and users, by monitoring and seeking compliance with existing reservoir management regulations.	Action R 7B. Same as Alternative A.	Action R 7C. Minimize conflicts and promote safety between recreational activities and users by monitoring and seeking compliance with management regulations and expanded environmental constraints.	Action R 7D. Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Coordination			
<p>Action R 8. Implement, in coordination with the BLM, a strategy to prevent illegal activities and public trespass in addition to a proper stock handling program at the French Flat management area.</p> <p>Action R 9. Continue to educate agencies and landowners on the negative impacts that certain land use activities that may affect the visual quality of the study area.</p> <p>Action R 10. Continue to support and expand boating law enforcement services from Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.</p>			
Topic: Commercial Services / Concessions			
<p>Action R 11. All concession contracts will be written in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations; administration of the concessions contract will be the responsibility of New Melones Recreation Resource Branch.</p> <p>Action R 12. Continue to enforce the regulations and Reclamation policies related to concessions and commercial services, such as 43 CFR 429 (Cost Recovery) and Reclamation Manual Direction. Educate the public in the need to acquire a permit from Reclamation for commercial services on Reclamation lands.</p> <p>Action R 13. Implement concessionaire agreements with private enterprises to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities.</p>			
<p>Action R 14. Continue the existing concessionaire agreement at New Melones Lake through its expiration in 2012. Plan for future concession services through a commercial services plan and financial feasibility study. Potential concessions must be self supporting and compatible with Reclamation goals and objectives and must provide services desired by the public. The plan would analyze the existing marina concession and explore feasibility of additional services or contracts.</p>			
<p>Action R 15A. Keep the existing marina contract as is and allow this contract to expire in 2012.</p>	<p>Action R 15B. Based on the findings of the commercial services plan and financial feasibility study, recommend and pursue a marina contract or other possible commercial services. These commercial services could include: marina(s), equestrian facilities, RV campgrounds with hookups, houseboat repair facility, watercraft rentals, interpretive services, and outfitting/guiding services.</p>	<p>Action R 15C. Based on the findings of the commercial services plan and financial feasibility study, recommend and pursue only concessions that would emphasize the protection of natural and cultural resources. These commercial services could include: interpretive services, guiding services, or other low-impact recreation services.</p>	<p>Action R 15D. Based on the findings of the commercial services plan and financial feasibility study, recommend and pursue concessions that provide for diverse recreation and afford an appropriate recreation experience, consistent with natural and cultural resource management objectives.</p>
<p>Action R 16A. Through the marina concession contract, continue to operate and maintain the existing amount of public boat moorings storage.</p>	<p>Action R 16B. Assess the management need for additional boat storage capacity, such as dry storage or additional moorage and support facilities, and implement those findings through the Commercial Services Plan.</p>	<p>Action R 16C. Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action R 16D. Same as Alternative B.</p>

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Facilities and Maintenance Program			
<p>Action R 17. Provide a recreation maintenance program that includes such components as potable water, sanitation, refuse management, landscape maintenance, building and facility repairs, waterway and hazard marking, and pest control.</p> <p>Action R 18. Restrict all public vehicles to designated roads, except as authorized under permit.</p> <p>Action R 19. Roads, trails, and access easements would be designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.</p> <p>Action R 20. Land and water-based toilets would be provided and maintained to minimize exposure to unsanitary conditions for visitors.</p> <p>Action R 21. Appropriate storage, transfer, containment, and disposal facilities would be provided and maintained for liquids, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints, at Reclamation and lessee facilities. Recycling of these materials would be encouraged.</p>			
Action R 22A. Operate and maintain facilities in rural natural management areas.	Action R 22B. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all rural natural management areas, assess feasibility of future additional development in rural natural management areas.	Action R 22C. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in rural natural management areas, minimize development of future recreational facilities in rural natural management areas, such as Bear Creek, Parrotts Ferry, West Side, French Flat, Natural Bridges, Camp Nine, and Greenhorn Creek.	Action R 22D. Same as Alternative C.
Action R 23A. Operate and maintain facilities in rural developed management areas.	Action R 23B. In addition to operating and maintaining facilities in all rural developed management areas, assess feasibility of future development. Any additional facilities would be concentrated in areas of existing development, such as Tuttletown and the Glory Hole Recreation Area.	Action R 23C. Minimize development of future recreational facilities in rural development management areas.	Action R 23D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Recreation Use Fees			
Action R 24. In the designated fee areas, continue to implement a user fee program and expand to areas when appropriate to achieve management goals.			
Action R 25A. Evaluate visitor satisfaction with the operation and management of New Melones Lake through anecdotal information.	Action R 25B. Evaluate quality and variety of recreation through formal customer surveys, as well as other forms of public involvement. Planning for future use of funds will be based on surveys.	Action R 25C. Same as Alternative B.	Action R 25D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action R 26A. Report on use of the fees retained at New Melones Lake Area.	Action R 26B. When Reclamation can retain fees at New Melones Lake Area, an annual report will be publicly available on the use of these funds, as well as on-site information that will indicate what was accomplished with the retained recreation use fees.	Action R 26C. Same as Alternative B.	Action R 26D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Universal Access			
Action R 27. All new and existing facilities and programs would be designed to incorporate the universal design approach to accessibility. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. As required, facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and Title 24 of the California Building Code).			
Action R 28. An accessibility review would be conducted of all facilities at developed and undeveloped recreation areas not previously surveyed or in response to new requirements.			
Action R 29. A site’s topography and natural features, the degree of structural modification, and visitors’ expectations related to the recreational land use would be considered when determining the applicable levels of accessibility.			
Action R 30. Facilities and programs would be modified to comply with ADA requirements, as resources for updating become available.			
Topic: Visitor Services and Ranger Program			
Action R 31. Continue to implement the RRMA of 1992 and the CCAO Ranger Policy.			
Action R 32. Park Rangers and resource staff implement and manage the recreation, interpretive, natural resource, and visitor services programs.			
Action R 33. A phone and Internet-based reservation system (National Recreation Reservation System) is used for campground and group picnic facility reservations.			
Action R 34. In support of primary emergency services, provide first response for medical, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and other emergencies at New Melones Lake.			
Action R 35. Provide public education on natural resources, cultural resources, public safety, and Reclamation’s mission.			
Topic: Visual Resources			
Action R 36. Manage recreation impacts in rural natural management areas to preserve sensitive resources in their natural state and to maintain scenic qualities associated with these areas.			
Action R 37. All facilities would be designed to blend in to the natural landscape through careful siting (for example, behind terrain, away from ridgelines, within vegetated areas), screening with appropriate native plant species, use of compatible architectural design with the applicable surroundings (including style, scale, texture, and colors) and avoiding the use of unpainted metallic surfaces, such as roof materials.			
Action R 38. All Reclamation and concession signs will comply with the Reclamation sign manual.			
Action R 39. Comment on plans and environmental documents for new major projects within the watershed to prevent potential adverse visual effects on Reclamation lands.			
Action R 40. Continue to implement and update the project-wide sign management plan.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
AQUATIC RECREATION (fishing, motorized boating, nonmotorized boating, seaplane operation, swimming, wake boarding, water skiing) Goal 1. Provide a diverse range of water-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the lake and surrounding lands. Goal 2. Protect cultural resources, natural resources, and water quality for the future while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences.			
Action AR 1. Use the WROS and the related carrying capacity study as a guide when managing visitor use and recreation (Appendix C). Included in the carrying capacity are estimates of the optimum number of visitors at New Melones Lake and the optimum density of watercraft on New Melones Lake. Action AR 2. Develop appropriate educational opportunities on water and boating safety. Action AR 3. (Also Action R 5.) When special events support Reclamation’s mission, events such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events may be allowed by permit. Action AR 4. Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive pest species through procedures such as prohibiting launching of boats from known source locations, screening for IPS, and education efforts.			
Action AR 5A. To address ongoing safety concerns, prohibit specific uses of the water surface by continuing to require the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">No ski zones in the Camp Nine, and Stanislaus River Canyon areas;No wake zones 100 feet (30 meters) from the launch and marina;No boating in designated swimming areas;No swimming zone within the marina;No swimming zones within 100 feet (30 meters) of launch ramps or docks; andNo fishing off of docks unless otherwise permitted (see Figure 2-2).	Action AR 5B. Implement additional lake zones to designate additional swimming areas and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes to protect public safety. Additional float docks (to be used for swimming and fishing) will also be constructed under this alternative (See Figure 2-3).	Action AR 5C. Implement additional lake zones to designate no wake zones to prevent shore erosion, additional swimming areas, and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes to protect public safety and natural resources. Zones may include, but would not be limited to, designated areas of Angels Creek, Vonich Gulch, Parrotts Ferry, and the Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas (see Figures 2-4 and 2-5).	Action AR 5D. Implement additional lake zones to designate no wake zones to prevent shore erosion, additional swimming areas, and areas appropriate for nonmotorized boating, houseboats, and seaplanes to protect public safety and natural resources. Zones may include designated areas of Angels Creek, Vonich Gulch, Parrotts Ferry, and the Stanislaus River Canyon Management Areas (see Figure 2-6).
Action AR 6A. Maintain existing floating vault toilets at various locations on New Melones Lake when lake level and weather conditions permit.	Action AR 6B. Install additional floating vault toilets at various locations on New Melones Lake when lake level and weather conditions permit.	Action AR 6C. Same at Alternative B.	Action AR 6D. Same at Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Fishing			
<p>Action AR 7 (Also Action FW 16). Continue to manage fisheries through an agreement with the CDFG.</p> <p>Action AR 8 (Also Action PHS 15). Develop a strong partnership with CDFG to increase communication, leading to more effective enforcement of the appropriate regulations under the Clean Water Act and the Fish and Game Code of California</p> <p>Action AR 9 (Also Action FW 17). Limit disturbance and intensive visitor use along perennial stream corridors and reservoir coves that maintain prime spawning, rearing, and adult residence area fisheries.</p> <p>Action AR 10 (Also Action FW 18). Minimize disturbance of habitat in perennial streams that support native fish.</p> <p>Action AR 11 (Also Action FW 19). Continue to enhance fish habitat by installing fish attractors, consisting of piles of logs and brush anchored to the ground, to provide cover for fish.</p> <p>Action AR 12 (Also Action FW 20). Support efforts by volunteers and partners to rehabilitate and improve fisheries, fish habitat, and aquatic resources.</p> <p>Action AR 13 (Also Action FW 21). Prevent entrapment and death of fish within water impoundment facilities.</p> <p>Action AR 14 (Also Action FW 22). Except when snags present a safety hazard, continue to leave dead trees in the reservoir to provide fish habitat.</p>			
<p>Action AR 15A (Also see Action AR 5A). Continue to prohibit specific uses of the water to maintain quiet fishing zones around the lake, including no wake zones in the Camp Nine and Stanislaus River Canyon areas and 100 feet (30 meters) from the launch and marina, and no boating in designated swimming areas.</p>	<p>Action AR 15B. Designate additional zoning at Angels Creek, Vonich Gulch, Parrotts Ferry, Stanislaus River Canyon, and Camp Nine to encourage fishing, prevent shoreline erosion, and protect public safety.</p>	<p>Action AR 15C. Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Action AR 15C. Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>Action AR 16A (Also Action FW 24A). Minimize disturbance of known warm water fish spawning areas, such as Black Bart Cove.</p>	<p>Action AR 16B (Also Action FW 24B). Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action AR 16C (Also Action FW 24C). Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance in known warm water fish spawning areas such as Black Bart Cove.</p>	<p>Action AR 16D (Also Action FW 24D). Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p>Action AR 17A (Also Action FW 23A). Minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.</p>	<p>Action AR 17B (Also Action FW 23B). Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Action AR 17C (Also Action FW 23C). Especially during spawning season, restrict and minimize disturbance of known trout spawning areas in Coyote Creek Cove, Angels Creek Cove, Carson Creek Cove, and Mormon Creek Cove, as well as areas of the Stanislaus River downstream from the confluence of Rose Creek and the South Fork.</p>	<p>Action AR 17D (Also Action FW 23D). Same as Alternative A.</p>

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Motorize Boating, Water Skiing, and Wake Boarding			
<p>Action AR 18 (Also Action PHS 7). Continue to mark the tops of intermittent islands, large rock outcroppings, or other aquatic hazards with warning buoys as per the New Melones Lake Waterway Hazard Marking Plan.</p> <p>Action AR 19. Provide courtesy docks in the waters surrounding usable boat ramps to facilitate the efficient launch and take-out of boats.</p> <p>Action AR 20. Provide flexible support facilities at all functioning (usable) boat ramp locations (e.g., portable toilets, trash receptacles).</p> <p>Action AR 21. A water ski club has a license to construct, operate, and maintain for public use a ski course and dock within Bear Creek Cove. This nonprofit organization is open to the public and conducts periodic public outreach activities.</p>			
Action AR 22A. Continue operation and maintenance of New Melones Lake to allow for the current level of watercraft use.	Action AR 22B. Allow increased level of houseboat use at New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity.	Action AR 22C. Decrease the level of houseboat use at New Melones Lake, in accordance with an updated carrying capacity.	Action AR 22D. Same at Alternative A.
Action AR 23A. Continue status quo management of houseboat activities on New Melones Lake.	Action AR 23B. Prepare and implement a houseboat policy for New Melones Lake, addressing such topics as mooring sites, houseboat size limits, quantities, mooring agreement, term limits, and boat slips.	Action AR 23C. Same at Alternative B.	Action AR 23D. Same at Alternative B.
Topic: Nonmotorized Boating			
Action AR 24A (Also see Action AR 5A). Continue to prohibit specific uses of the water surface to address safety concerns, including no wake zones in the Camp Nine, Stanislaus River Canyon areas and 100 feet (30 meters) from the launch and marina, and no boating in designated swimming areas (see Figure 2-2).	Action AR 24B. Designate areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage a diversity of experiences at the lake, prevent shoreline erosion, and protect public safety (see Figure 2-3).	Action AR 24C. Designate additional areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage an increased diversity of experiences at the lake, would prevent shoreline erosion, and would protect public safety (see Figures 2-4 and 2-5).	Action AR 24D. Designate additional areas as no wake zones. These areas would encourage an increased diversity of experiences at the lake, would prevent shoreline erosion, and would protect public safety (see Figure 2-6).
Topic: Seaplane Operation			
Action AR 25. (Also Action TA 12.) Continue to implement the existing New Melones seaplane policy and comply with 43 CFR 423, which includes restrictions on commercial operation of seaplanes and designates appropriate landing zones and operations (see Figure 2-1).			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action AR 26A (also Action TA 13A). Monitor aircraft for compliance with appropriate regulations, such as 43 CFR 423 and report airplane-related problems on New Melones Lake to the FAA, as needed. Reclamation reports aircraft that are too near infrastructure and when there are near misses between seaplanes and boats.	Action AR 26B (Also Action TA 13B.) Prepare and implement a strategy to address adverse overflight activities. The strategy may include a range of actions from increased education and communication with aviators, county airport personnel, and the FAA, to requesting that the FAA restrict airspace over New Melones Lake Area to protect public safety and critical infrastructure.	Action AR 26C (Also Action TA 13C). Increase and enforce designated no-fly zones near critical infrastructure for all aircraft and restrict access to New Melones Lake for seaplane activities.	Action AR 26D (Also Action TA 13D). Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Swimming			
Action AR 27A. Designated swimming areas are buoyed off and closed to incompatible uses.	Action AR 27B. Designate additional water play areas, which would be safe for swimming and close those areas to incompatible uses (see Figure 2-3).	Action AR 27C. Maintain existing water play areas and close those areas to incompatible uses.	Action AR 27D. Same at Alternative B.
LAND-BASED RECREATION (biking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, picnicking and day use activities, radio-controlled aircraft, rock climbing, spelunking) Goal 1. Provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs compatible with the existing character of the project lands. Goal 2. Protect cultural and natural resources for the future, while providing safe and enjoyable recreational experiences. Goal 3. Provide specific recreation opportunities and adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions. Goal 4. Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational experiences using trails and pathways. Goal 5. Provide safe recreational hunting opportunities compatible with the Wildlife Management Plan, while respecting private property rights and management authority over wildlife resources.			
Action LR 1. Continue to provide a diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs, compatible with the existing character of the project lands, and targeting a diversity of visitor interest and capabilities. Action LR 2. Land use activities are limited within wetland/riparian buffer zones to prevent significant deterioration of wetland habitats. Action LR 3. Promote wildlife viewing and appropriate dispersed recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, climbing, bicycling, hunting, and fishing throughout New Melones, but especially in the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. Action LR 4 (Also Action R 5). When special events support Reclamation’s mission, events such as fishing tournaments, triathlons, water-ski exhibitions, equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events, may be allowed by permit. Action LR 5. Design recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and loss of soils due to surface runoff.			

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Trails and Pathways for Biking, Hiking, and Horseback Riding			
<p>Action LR 6. Directional signs will continue to be provided at trailheads and trail junctions, and trail markers would be provided as required on longer trails.</p> <p>Action LR 7. Interpretive markers will continue to be placed at selected sites along designated trails.</p> <p>Action LR 8. Within intensively used recreation areas, pathways are constructed to concentrate foot traffic in specific areas.</p> <p>Action LR 9. Pathways lead from the parking lots to picnic areas, restrooms, beaches, and walk-in campsites.</p> <p>Action LR 10. Pathways and trails follow current Reclamation design standards and BMPs.</p> <p>Action LR 11. Roads, trails, and access easements are designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes, and to limit the number of stream crossings.</p> <p>Action LR 12. Reclamation coordinates with the county, local landowners, and other partners in regional trails planning.</p> <p>Action LR 13. Continue to develop and maintain partnerships to construct and manage the trail systems.</p> <p>Action LR 14. Develop and maintain trailhead staging areas with minimum basic facilities in strategic locations to provide visitor access to trails, while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Action LR 15. Continue to prohibit equestrian use of trails within developed portions of existing Rural Developed management areas (e.g., Tuttletown). Where equestrians are permitted, allow multiple use by bicycles only if safe to do so.</p>			
Action LR 16A. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit.	Action LR 16B. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit. Improve the staging area and existing trails, and develop additional trails by a concession-operated equestrian facility.	Action LR 16C. Continue to operate and maintain the equestrian staging area in the Peoria Wildlife Management area and impose use limits as necessary to protect sensitive resources.	Action LR 16D. In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, relocate equestrian staging area and associated minimum basic facilities to a more appropriate location that allows day use and possible overnight use by permit. Improve the staging area and existing trails. Develop additional trails by a concession-operated equestrian facility if the purpose is to meet the management goals of better stewardship presence, trail and facility maintenance, and enhancement of public education through interpretive efforts regarding sensitive species conservation in the serpentine plant community.
Action LR 17A. In the development of future trail systems, where appropriate, the use of existing trails and unpaved roads would be promoted.	Action LR 17B. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 17C. No new trails will be developed beyond existing trails and unpaved roads unless for the purpose of protecting sensitive species and habitats.	Action LR 17D. Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement *(continued)*

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action LR 18A. Operate and maintain trail infrastructure within intensively used recreation areas. Pathways were constructed to concentrate foot traffic in specific areas and reduce trampling of the natural vegetation and provide efficient circulation routes. Pathways lead from the parking lots to picnic areas, beaches, and campsites.	Action LR 18B. Multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) would be encouraged in the development of new trails or the redevelopment of existing trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility), compatibility, and land use suitability.	Action LR 18C. Multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) would be encouraged in the redevelopment of trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility), compatibility, and land use suitability.	Action LR 18D. Same as Alternative B.
Action LR 19A. Pathways would be three feet (one meter) wide, with a stabilized aggregate surface, and would generally follow the natural contours of the land.	Action LR 19B. Prepare and implement a trails management plan that optimizes connectivity and multiple uses of trails including ADA-compliant trails where appropriate. Consider improvements for safety, sanitation, and better access, such as connection of the lower bridge at Natural Bridges to the rest of the trail system.	Action LR 19C. Prepare and implement a trails management plan that focuses on resource protection, including ADA-compliant trails, where appropriate.	Action LR 19D. Same as Alternative B.
Action LR 20A. Operate and maintain the existing Natural Bridges trail.	Action LR 20B. In the Coyote Creek Management Area, update Natural Bridges access trail including trail markers.	Action LR 20C. In the Coyote Creek Management Area, update Natural Bridges access trail, including trail markers to correct existing and prevent future resource degradation.	Action LR 20D. Same as Alternative C.
Action LR 21A. Operate and maintain the fire road and trail system in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and West Side management areas.	Action LR 21B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing rural developed management areas), and hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and West Side Management Areas.	Action LR 21C. Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Glory Hole, Greenhorn Creek, and West Side Management Areas.	Action LR 21D. Same as Alternative B.
Action LR 22A. Operate and maintain the fire road and trail system in Tuttletown, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife management areas.	Action LR 22B. Optimize the connectivity between the existing fire road and trail system for a variety of uses, such as mountain biking, equestrian use (outside of existing rural developed management areas), and hikers in Tuttletown, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife management areas.	Action LR 22C. Optimize the connectivity between the fire road and trail system for use by hikers in Tuttletown, Bear Creek, French Flat, and Peoria Wildlife management areas.	Action LR 22D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Camping, Picnicking, and other Day Use Activities			
Action LR 23. Continue to operate and manage the campgrounds and day use facilities under the New Melones Lake Special Use Area Policies (April 11, 2006-see Appendix D), and 43 CFR 423.			
Action LR 24. Manage fee collection for campground and day use through the National Recreation Reservation Service.			
Action LR 25. Continue to update and modernize campground and day use facilities. Reclamation efforts are concentrated on redeveloping and enhancing facilities in high demand areas, expanding day use facilities for larger groups, providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, improving potable water, and waste treatment facilities.			
Action LR 26. Campsites and picnic sites for groups, including physically disabled persons, would be located within camping and day use areas at the larger recreation areas.			
Action LR 27. Continue to operate a volunteer camp host program to provide information to visitors and maintain a Reclamation presence in the campgrounds.			
Action LR 28A. In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping.	Action LR 28B. In all Rural Developed Management Areas, update and modernize campground facilities for RVs and tent camping. In particular, at Glory Hole and Tuttletown, consider adding utilities to RV sites or constructing additional full-service RV campgrounds via a concession contract.	Action LR 28C. Consider reducing the density of campground facilities at Rural Developed Management Areas.	Action LR 28D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Hunting			
Action LR 29. Reclamation would manage hunting in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the CDFG 43 CFR 423 and federal laws and regulations.			
Action LR 30. Provide information to visitors on hunting opportunities and restrictions through signs, maps, visitor contact, and other media.			
Action LR 31. Recreational target shooting is not permitted on Reclamation lands or waters.			
Action LR 32A. Unless expressly prohibited, hunting is allowed on Reclamation lands or waters, except within 150 yards (135 meters) of any designated recreation area, facility, campground, day use area, boat ramp, parking area, neighboring residence, or within 150 yards (135 meters) of Camp Nine’s two power plants (see Figure 2-7).	Action LR 32B. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 32C. To protect health and safety, develop and implement a long-term strategy for managing hunting as visitation and urban development increase. This policy may include restrictions to meet management goals, such as compliance with California Fish and Game code, as well as other applicable regulations, such as EO 13443 (see Figures 2-5 and 2-8).	Action LR 32D. Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Action LR 33A. Educate hunters through passive dissemination of information, such as signs, maps, and other media.	Action LR 33B. Enhance hunting opportunities by developing agreements to allow special hunting events, such as youth hunts and special needs hunts.	Action LR 33C. Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 33D. Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Radio-Controlled Aircraft			
Action LR 34. Reclamation would continue to allow the use of radio-controlled model airplanes via agreement with a nonprofit organization. Use is allowed only in a designated facility that is open to the public and subject to contract terms and conditions.			
Topic: Rock Climbing			
Action LR 35. Continue to allow rock climbing at the visitor's own risk.			
Action LR 36 (Also Action SSS 8). In the Peoria Wildlife Management Area, manage rock climbing use in accordance with federal regulations on natural and cultural resources.			
Action LR 37. During the habitation period, conduct monthly inventories of sensitive bat species such as the mastiff bat on the northwest slope of Table Mountain. Climbing routes in the area are monitored for effects to sensitive species.			
Action LR 38A (Also Action SSS 10A). As described in the Peoria Wildlife Management Plan, if impacts on sensitive species are identified, Reclamation would develop and implement a climbing management plan.	Action LR 38B (Also Action SSS 10B). Same as Alternative A.	Action LR 38C (Also Actions SSS 9C and 10C). Restrict access to climbing routes near sensitive bat species caves during bat habitation periods. Develop and implement a climbing management plan, which includes designation of climbing routes and areas.	Action LR 38D (Also Action SSS 10D). Same as Alternative B.
Topic: Spelunking			
Action LR 39. Continue to allow spelunking at the visitor's own risk.			
Action LR 40 (Also Action C 2). A protection plan for caves with significant resource value or potential hazards will be implemented as needed.			
Action LR 41 (Also Action C 3). To preserve cave resources such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and/or sensitive species, recreation use is managed to minimize impacts as needed.			
Action LR 42A (Also Action C 4A). Manage access to caves to comply with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action LR 42B (Also Action C 4B). Expand access to caves while complying with federal law and meet health and safety requirements.	Action LR 42C (Also Action C 4C). Measures to control access to caves will be implemented.	Action LR 42D (Also Action C 4D). Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES AND VISITOR INFORMATION Goal 1. Enhance the public’s understanding of the history, purpose, and operation of the project and its archaeological, historical, manmade, natural, and cultural features. Goal 2. Enhance recreation experiences through the Visitor’s Center, interpretive services, and volunteer programs. Goal 3. Enhance the quality of recreation for all visitors including those with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. Goal 4. Educate the public about Reclamation, water resources, water conservation, and water safety. Goal 5. Promote stewardship, achieve management objectives, optimize resources, provide enhanced services, and provide educational opportunities.			
Action IS 1. Interpret the natural, cultural, and recreation resources at New Melones, as well as the importance of water resource management and conservation activities of Reclamation, its water users, and other agencies. Action IS 2. Provide public information and education within all aspects of visitor services that support recreational activities. Action IS 3. Provide information, education, and quality recreational experiences through interpretive displays, trails, signs, visitor contact, brochures, booklets, programs, presentations, publications, and other media both on and off Reclamation lands. Action IS 4. Encourage recreational user groups and neighbors to assist Reclamation with the stewardship and management of project lands.			
Action IS 5A. Provide interpretive services in accordance with the Project Master Plan and current directives.	Action IS 5B. Prepare and implement an Interpretive Master Plan.	Action IS 5C. Same as Alternative B.	Action IS 5D. Same as Alternative B.
Action IS 6A. All concessionaires provide interpretation and public education to visitors such as water safety and boating rules.	Action IS 6B. All concessionaires could provide expanded interpretation and public education as appropriate and in conjunction with the Interpretive Master Plan. In addition, develop concessionaire contracts and partnerships specifically to provide interpretive services. These contracts could include a variety of programs ranging from activities based education such as boating safety to natural and cultural resource based education such as the history, prehistory, and ecology of the New Melones Area.	Action IS 6C. Same as Alternative B.	Action IS 6D. Same as Alternative B.
Action IS 7A. Continue to provide education and interpretation at existing facilities in Tuttletown Management Area and Glory Hole Management Area.	Action IS 7B. Update and modernize to ADA standards outdoor facilities for interpretive programs and services in Tuttletown Management Area and Glory Hole Management Are. This may include modification to the Glory Hole amphitheater and development of an amphitheater in the Tuttletown Management Area.	Action IS 7C. Update and modernize to ADA standards the outdoor amphitheater in the Glory Hole Management Area for interpretive programs and services.	Action IS 7D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
Topic: Visitor Center			
Action IS 8. Operate the visitor center to provide interpretive services and visitor information in compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement between Reclamation, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.			
Action IS 9. Provide information through a variety of multi-media tools and programs at the Visitor Center.			
Action IS 10A. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards.	Action IS 10B. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards. This includes compliance with Reclamation's directives and standards on visitor centers LND 13-01.	Action IS 10C. Operate and maintain the visitor center to modern standards and develop an outdoor classroom at the Visitor Center for environmental education. This includes compliance with Reclamation's directives and standards on visitor centers LND 13-01.	Action IS 10D. Same as Alternative C.
Action IS 11A. Provide guided interpretive walks in the Mark Twain Management Area along the Norwegian Gulch Trail.	Action IS 11B. In the Mark Twain Management Area, develop interpretive features for the Norwegian Gulch Trail starting from park headquarters and the Visitor Center.	Action IS 11C. Same as Alternative B.	Action IS 11D. Same as Alternative B.
UTILITIES			
Goal: Ensure that utilities such as electrical systems, water and wastewater systems, and telephone service are adequate to meet Reclamation's needs and regulatory requirements and the needs of increasing numbers of visitors.			
Action U 1. Forecast and plan for updating systems to coincide with future demands and regulatory requirements.			
Action U 2. Conduct periodic review of utilities, maintain a long-term plan for maintenance, replacement, and updating of systems, and seek funding to address deferred maintenance of utilities			
Action U 3A. Public telephones will be provided at the entrance stations and concession areas at Glory Hole and Tuttletown.	Action U 3B. Maintain existing public telephone and install several telephones to address health and safety concerns. Telephones might be installed in areas of heavy visitor use or more remote areas where cellular telephone coverage maybe limited.	Action U 3C. Same as Alternative A.	Action U 3D. Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-2: New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Increased Use)	Alternative C (Conservation)	Alternative D (Multiple Use)
FACILITIES, LAND USE, AND MANAGEMENT AREAS Goal: Provide, operate and maintain facilities appropriate to the needs of Reclamation and the general public			
Action F 1A. Using the existing land use allocation map in the Master Plan, manage land and water in the New Melones Lake Area.	Action F 1B. Update land use allocation at New Melones Lake as described in Table 2-3: Land Use to reflect updated information, currently used management areas, and potential management from such sources as the WROS, carrying capacity study, and commercial services plan. (Land Capability per the 1976 Master Plan p45)	Action F 1C. Same as Alternative B.	Action F 1D. Same as Alternative B.
Action F 2. Perform repairs/alterations on existing facilities necessary to comply with accessibility and public health and safety standards requirements (such as the accessibility action plan, etc.). Action F 3. In all management areas, both Rural Developed and Rural Natural Management Areas, update minimum basic facilities and minimal facilities (expanded) such as parking and sanitation facilities which, among other standards, need to protect public health and safety and protect water quality. Action F 4. Unless otherwise specified, continue to operate and maintain current facilities and continue existing uses in all management areas. See Chapter 3 for description of facilities and uses.			

Table 2-3: Land Use - Proposed and Existing

Management Areas	WROS Designation	Master Plan – Land Capability*	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area	Major Facilities	Major Attributes
Bear Creek	Rural Natural/ Rural Developed	ORIU, ORLU, RLIU, & RLLU	Chaparral Recreation Area	No Major Reclamation Facilities Though Adjacent to Housing	Borders the Lake Shore
Bowie Flat	Rural Natural	LEPN	None	No Major Reclamation Facilities	Remote, No Direct Public Access via Public Road
Camp Nine	Semiprimitive/ Rural Natural	ORLU	Clarks Flat	Camp Nine Road, New Camp Nine Bridge, and Two Non-Federal Hydroelectrical Facilities	Steep Canyons, River-like, and Remote
Carson	Rural Natural	RLIU, ORIU & ORLU	Melones Recreation Area	No Major Reclamation Facilities	Borders the Lake Shore, former lake access point (Old Melones)
Coyote Creek	Rural Natural/ Rural Developed	ORIU & ORLU	None	Natural Bridges Trail and Parking Lot	Two Natural Bridges
Dam and Spillway	Rural Natural/ Rural Developed	PO & FWL	New Melones Dam	New Melones Dam and Spillway	New Melones Dam and Spillway
French Flat	Rural Natural/ Rural Developed	ORIU, ORLU, RLIU, & RLLU	Rawhide Recreation Area	No Major Reclamation Facilities Though Adjacent to Housing	Fishing Cove, adjacent to a BLM management area
Glory Hole	Rural Developed	ORIU, ORLU, RLIU, & RLLU	None	Glory Hole Recreation Area, Glory Hole & Angels Creek Launch Ramps, and Glory Hole Marina	Intensive Recreation Development (campgrounds, day-use areas, hiking and biking trails, and flat water recreation opportunities)
Greenhorn Creek	Rural Natural	ORLU	Glory Hole Recreation Area, Vonich Gulch	No Major Reclamation Facilities	Fishing Cove
Mark Twain	Rural Developed	ORIU & ORLU,	None	Administrative Office, Visitor Center, Non-motorize Boat Launch, hiking trail, picnic sites	Borders the Lake Shore
Parrotts Ferry	Rural Natural/ Rural Developed	ORLU	None	No Major Reclamation Facilities	New Parrotts Ferry Bridge, former road crossing via Parrotts Ferry Bridge, former raft takeout for Camp Nine rafting stretch
Peoria Wildlife Area	Rural Natural	FWL	Table Mountain	Table Mountain Trail, trailheads, restrooms, equestrian staging area, RC flyers, Baseline Camp, and Parking Area	Table Mountain
Stanislaus River Canyon	Rural Natural	RLIU, RLLU, & ORLU	Skunk Gulch Recreation Area	No Major Reclamation Facilities	Remote, No Direct Public Access via Public Road

Table 2-3: Land Use - Proposed and Existing *(continued)*

Management Areas	WROS Designation	Master Plan – Land Capability*	Other Names for All or Part of the Management Area	Major Facilities	Major Attributes
Tuttletown	Rural Developed	ORIU, ORLU, RLIU, & RLLU	None	Tuttletown Recreation Area and Tuttletown Launch Area	Intensive Recreation Development (campgrounds, day-use areas, hiking and biking trails, and flat water recreation opportunities)
Westside	Rural Natural	ORLU	None	No Major Reclamation Facilities	Remote, No Direct Public Access via Public Road

***Note:** The land use allocations used in this table came from the Master Plan Land Use Allocation (p 45): Fish and Wildlife Lands (FWL), Lands Excess to Project Needs (LEPN), Operations: Recreation - Intensive Use (ORIU), Operations Recreation - Low-Density Use (ORLU), Project Operations (PO), Recreation Lands: Intensive Use (RLIU), and Recreation Lands: Low-Density Use (RLLU).